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National Board



FOR PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING STANDARDS®

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Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street

Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

A New System for Illinois



A new three-level teacher licensure system went into effect in February 2000. Under the new system, *Initial Certificates* valid for four years of teaching are issued to beginning teachers. Experienced teachers applying for renewal of Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, or Special Certificates receive *Standard Certificates* valid for five years and renewable with proof of continuing professional development.

The third level of certification, the *Master Certificate*, is available only to teachers who have earned National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification. The *Master Certificate* is valid for ten years.

Five Core Propositions

The following five core propositions are the heart of the National Board's work. The standards of accomplished practice for each certificate area flow from them and are measured by performance-based assessment tasks.

- Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
- Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to their students.
- Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
- Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- Teachers are members of learning communities.

National Board Certification Areas

The following sixteen certificates are currently available:

- Early Childhood/Generalist
- Middle Childhood/Generalist
- Early and Middle Childhood/English as a New Language
- Early Childhood through Young Adulthood/Exceptional Needs
- Early Adolescence/Generalist
- Early Adolescence/English Language Arts
- Early Adolescence/Mathematics
- Early Adolescence/Science
- Early Adolescence/Social Studies-History
- Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art
- Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/English as a New Language
- Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Career and Technical Education
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Mathematics
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Science
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Social Studies-History

These three certificates are being developed for availability in December 2000:

- Early and Middle Childhood/Art
- Early and Middle Childhood/Physical Education
- Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Physical Education

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CERTIFICATION?

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ISBE website: www.isbe.state.il.us
Professional Preparation at 217/782-4330.

WHAT IS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

National Board Certification is a voluntary system that measures the practice of experienced teachers against high and rigorous standards. An NBPTS certificate is a credential attesting that you have been assessed by your peers as a teacher who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about student learning and acts effectively on those judgments.

Illinois teachers who earn National Board Certification qualify for the new *Master Certificate* and enter a ten-year professional development cycle for license renewal.

Why participate?

The National Board Certification process is

- a catalyst for your own professional growth.
- a method for recognizing accomplished teaching and its impact on students.
- an approved way to meet the Illinois continuing professional development requirements.
- a process for developing reflective practitioners through an analysis of professional practices and student learning.
- an opportunity to meet and work with outstanding teachers from all parts of Illinois.
- the only path to the Illinois Master Certificate and the associated \$3000 stipend.

Who can apply for National Board Certification?

Eligibility requires that teachers

- hold a bachelor's degree,
- have taught for a minimum of three years, and
- possess a valid state teaching license or have taught for a minimum of three years in schools recognized or approved to operate by the state.

What will I have to do?

Candidates participate over the course of the school year in a two-part assessment that includes

- A portfolio that includes student work, videotapes, and reflections on the effectiveness of their classroom practice; and
- Assessment center exercises designed to complement the portfolio and organized around challenging teaching issues.

Additional information is available on the ISBE website: www.isbe.state.il.us or you may call the Division of Professional Preparation at 217/782-4330.



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Request for Information

An application packet including the state fee subsidy application and the NBPTS application will be sent upon receipt of this request for information.

Name

Street

City

State

Zip

Area Code

Phone Number

FEE SUPPORT

The ISBE coordinates the federal NBPTS fee subsidy program and works with Regional Offices of Education, professional organizations, districts, and business and community groups to pay the \$2300 application fee for qualified Illinois teachers. *Individuals interested in fee support should apply through the ISBE, rather than directly to NBPTS.*

SELECTION

Monthly review of applications will begin in May 2000 and continue throughout the application period. Applicants will be notified of the recommendations of the review panel shortly after each monthly review.

Mail or fax: Illinois State Board of Education
Professional Preparation
100 North First Street, S-305
Springfield, IL 62777-0001
FAX: 217/782-3687

APPLICATION PERIOD FOR STATE FEE SUPPORT

MAY 1, 2000 - OCTOBER 31, 2000

EARLY APPLICATION IS ENCOURAGED.